

This was an inadvertent omission of important literature, for which the writer must accept full blame. Incidentally Macfarlane (*l.c.* p. 13, line 14), alluding to the Geographical Distribution of *Cephalotus*, repeats the myth "Its discoverer Labillardiere found it at Esperance Bay."

—J. H. WILLIS, National Herbarium, Melbourne.

Preservation Techniques for Algae

1. Field collections: Problems of carrying newspaper and presses, washing and arranging specimens, and changing of pressing papers can be obviated by using a drip-wet method. Algae are collected and steeped in the standard algal preservative of 6% formalin in seawater for at least 3-4 hours. The material is drained of solution and immediately placed in waterproof containers. Plastic bags, with wire ties, are recommended for ease of transport, convenience, and easy marking with a felt marker pen. In this condition material can be stored for up to 4 months. In the convenience of the laboratory the material may be sorted and conventional herbarium mounts prepared. Since the algae have been soaked in formalin solution fungal growth on the herbarium sheets is prevented. If desired, the wet material can be hand sectioned for anatomical details or reproductive structures.

2. A mountant for slides of algae: Glycerine jelly has long been a standard mountant for algae, but never completely satisfactory as a hard, permanent preparation. A pure corn syrup, designed for cooking purposes, has proven satisfactory for permanent mounts.

The algal material is fixed (in 6% formalin, or other appropriate fixative) and then either mounted directly or stained if necessary before mounting. The corn syrup is diluted to a 1:1 solution with distilled water (a fungicide such as phenol must be added as this sugar solution is ideal for fungal growth). A drop of solution is placed on a slide with the algal specimen, allowed to harden for a few minutes, and then a cover slip is added. Overnight the syrup will harden into a permanent mount. Many other plant tissues can also be mounted by this means.

Gentian violet is a useful algal stain and, made up in aqueous solution, can be used to pre-stain the syrup mountant solution. This simplifies procedures as the material may be stained and mounted simultaneously.

The corn syrup is manufactured under the trade name of KARO, by the Best Foods Division, Corn Products Company, New York. It is available in 16 fluid ounce bottles from many food and gourmet counters.

—B. M. ALLENDER, Department of Botany, University of Western Australia.